

REMARKS

The foregoing Amendment and the following remarks are filed in response to the Office Action issued on December 9, 2004 in connection with the above-identified application.

Claims 1, 3, 4, 9, 10, 11, 13, 14, 19, and 20 remain pending in the present application. Claim 1 has been amended to include the subject matter of claims 2 and 5, and accordingly such claims 2 and 5 have been canceled. In addition, claims 3 and 4 have been amended to depend directly from claim 1, and claims 6-8 have been canceled as being inconsistent with newly amended claim 1. Claims 11-20 have been similarly amended. Applicants respectfully submit that no new matter has been added to the application by the Amendment.

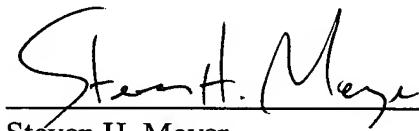
The Examiner notes that claims 5 and 15 are allowable but for their dependency from rejected base claims. Accordingly, independent claims 1 and 11 have been amended to include the subject matter of such claims 5 and 15, respectively, including intermediate claims 2 and 12, respectively. As a result claims 1 and 10 and all claim depending therefrom are now allowable.

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PATENT

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that the present application including claims 1, 3, 4, 9, 10, 11, 13, 14, 19, and 20 is in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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